



## The Changing Face of BA's Nienhuis Park

### *New Pool, Youth Football Fields, SkatePark Area Lead Way in '06*

When ground was broken for Broken Arrow's Nienhuis Park Youth/Community Center nearly two years ago, all that could be seen on that 109-acre site were trees, rocks, dirt and weeds. Parks & Recreation Director Scott Esmond, however, could see much more than that. From the time that land became City property, Esmond had a vision.

This is a drawing of the planned new water park in Nienhuis Park. It will be large enough for about 600 swimmers and will include flume slides, a large toddler pool area (far left), a sand volleyball court, 0-level entrance and a diving area. The pool should be open for the 2007 spring and summer season. Combined with the City's other pools, more than 1,000 customers can be accommodated at any time.

## Teamwork To 'Get 'Er Done'

That well-known phrase often said by a character on a popular comedy show may not be good grammar, but it does state what has been happening in Broken Arrow and the greater Tulsa area.

Working together, people and groups from every city and town in Tulsa County put aside mistrust, jealousy, and "us only" attitudes in 2003 and passed Vision 2025 in an all-out effort to revitalize the area's economy. This hard-hit metro region had suffered a loss of some 29,000 jobs in the previous two years, and the economy looked bleak.

As I write this, December 24, 2005, the Tulsa metro area has the lowest jobless rate since September of 2001, and posted a net gain of 9,400 nonfarm jobs over last year. From Broken Arrow to Collinsville, from Owasso to Jenks, we all benefit directly or indirectly from that good news.

Cooperative teamwork to help existing businesses and attract new ones, provide educational opportunities, install infrastructure and public facilities, and improve the quality of life, turned the economy around. That's a valuable lesson to remember in 2006 and beyond.

Do we face challenges? Sure! But, by working together locally, with City, Chamber of Commerce, BA and Union Schools, local businesses and civic groups all willing to cooperate for common goals, we can accomplish great things! Regionally, taking the same approach, our communities will build the economy for everyone, attracting new businesses, growing existing ones, and improving quality of life.

The ancients said it well with the term, "United we stand, divided we fall." I look forward to a GREAT YEAR, working with all of you and our neighbors all over the metro area to move forward, as a team, to "Get 'er done!"

Best wishes,  
Mayor Richard Carter



Mayor Carter

The Youth/Community Center dream has long since become a reality. And now those other dreams -- the visions Esmond had for the park -- are closer to being reality as well. The Nienhuis Youth Football complex will open this next summer. Funding from Vision 2025 will help build a new water facility and a gymnasium. The City's first skatePark has been designed and will be constructed near the Youth/Community Center. Broken Arrow's next fire station will be built near the entrance to the park.

A memorial rose garden was dedicated in the entrance late last summer and should be in full bloom this spring. A pond just south and east of the rose garden is gradually being stocked and will host a "fishing derby" for kids this year. Walking and jogging trails are being planned.

The timing couldn't have been better. This quadrant of the community was virtually without any recreational facilities. Now, with Stonewood Hills (Bass Pro and other businesses) springing to life, hundreds of new homes and new schools north of the BA Expressway, Nienhuis Park (located just east of 9th Street between 61st and 51st) is fast on its way to becoming one of the top recreational gems in this area of Oklahoma.

## City Employees Finish 'Character Counts' Training

More than 600 City of Broken Arrow employees have finished training in the Character Counts program. The nationally acclaimed program features "Six Pillars of Character:"

Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

Employees will carry those lessons forward at work and in the community.



## Parks Department Offers Special Classes, Events

Once again this year the BA Parks & Recreation Department will be offering special classes and programs to the community -- and even a very special "Daddy and Daughter Dance" on Feb. 11.

A brochure featuring all of the classes -- with times, dates, and costs -- is available at the Community Center in Central Park and the Youth/Community Center in Nienhuis Park.

The Daddy-Daughter Dance on Feb. 11 will be held at Nienhuis Park's center. Three different dance times will be held this year: 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. Each dance will be limited to 25 couples.

DJ Connection will provide the music and entertainment. There will be cookies and punch, a photographer to take pictures, and of course lots of dancing. Dress is formal or casual - you decide! Sorry, no mom's allowed.

Tickets go on sale Jan. 3 for this event. Cost is \$5 per person and must be purchased in advance. Tickets may be purchased at the City of Broken Arrow Community Center on Main Street or at the Broken Arrow Youth/Community Center at Nienhuis Park. For information call 355-0287.



Preliminary plans have been completed for the new Skatepark in Nienhuis Park, with input coming from several areas of the community -- including the skaters. Scott Esmond, Director of Parks & Recreation, states that the facility will top any others in the area.

### Softballers Begin Registration Jan. 14

The Broken Arrow Girls Softball League will begin registration for the 2006 season Jan. 14 at Arrowhead Park, 300 E. Washington. Girls from 4 to 18 are eligible to play.

Registration is open to all Broken Arrow and Union girls. Sessions will be Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 14, 21 and 28; Thursday, Jan. 19 and Tuesday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 29, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, Jan. 9 through 27, girls can also register at the office at Arrowhead Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A player's age as of Dec. 31, 2005, determines the age classification. There is T-ball for girls 4-6, and Coach Pitch for 7 and under; and 8-under league.

## Centennial Bricks Offered at Discount

In an effort to give more Broken Arrowans an opportunity to have memorial bricks placed in Centennial Park, the City has been offering them at half price, or \$50.

Parks & Recreation Director Scott Esmond explained that at least 200 of the bricks must be purchased before an order will be submitted to the manufacturer.

Memorial Walk leads from Main Street to the Centennial Statue.

The park is located at Main and Broadway, on the southwest corner.

For information on the bricks and a form to order them, complete with the engraving you'd like, go to the City web site at [http://www.brokenarrowok.gov/our-citizens/quality\\_life/centennial\\_bricks.htm](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov/our-citizens/quality_life/centennial_bricks.htm).

### Helpful City Phone Numbers

City Hall (Main No.)	251-5311
Police Department	451-8200
Emergencies	911
Animal Control	259-8311
Action Center	258-3587
Fire Dept.	259-8360
Parks & Rec.	259-8380
Maintenance Center	259-8373
Municipal Court /Traffic Fines	451-8558
Utility Payment/Water Dept.	259-8409
One Stop Center	259-2411
Park Grove Cemetery	259-8691
Community Center	259-8437
Central Pool	259-8695
Battle Creek Golf Course	355-4850
City Manager's Office	259-8419
City Legal Department	259-8422

After Hours Emergencies for Water, Sewer  
451-8400

### Community Calendar

**Jan. 4, Feb. 1** -- Meeting of the Broken Arrow Paleo Society, a newly-formed club for those interested in Oklahoma's historic past. 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the BA South Library.

**Jan. 14, Feb. 18** -- Registration for BA Youth Baseball, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the BA Youth Sports Building, 1005 S. Main. Signups also held during the work day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) at that building. Players must be 4 years of age or older before May 1, 2006, to be eligible. For more details go to [www.bayouthbaseball.com](http://www.bayouthbaseball.com).

**Jan. 14** -- Final day for registration in the BA Soccer Club spring season. Children ages 4 to 19 are eligible (must be at least 4 before Feb. 1, 2006). Register at the BASC office, 803 N. Elm, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or on line at [www.brokenarrowsoccerclub.org](http://www.brokenarrowsoccerclub.org). Call 258-5770 for information.

**Jan. 17** -- Recreation classes begin at BA Community Center in Central Park and in Nienhuis Park Youth/Community Center. Call 259-8437 or 355-0287 for more information.

**Jan. 19** -- Start of Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Department's Homeschool Physical Education program, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Community Center in Central Park. Call 259-8437 for information.

**Jan. 20** -- Registration deadline for those wishing to vote in the Feb. 14 school elections.

**Jan. 27** -- Chamber of Commerce annual Awards Banquet, 6:30 p.m. at the Tulsa Sheraton Hotel. Call 251-1518 for ticket information.

**Feb. 3-4** -- Friends of Broken Arrow Neighbors Book Fair, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 315 W. College.



**B u s y**  
Honor Guard  
-- The Honor Guard for the BA Fire

Department was kept busy during the latter part of the year with two Badge Ceremonies -- one for new recruits who had completed training and another for officers who were promoted. The promotion ceremony was held at Central Middle School with a large crowd in attendance, and another large crowd sat in during the ceremony for new recruits at a downtown church.

## Youth Baseball Signups Underway

Broken Arrow Youth Baseball will be holding registration for its 2006 season from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Broken Arrow Youth Sports Building, 1005 S. Main. Registration at the office during regular business hours will begin Jan. 3.

There are also signups scheduled Saturday, Jan. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Feb. 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Youth Sports Building. A \$10 late fee will be charged after Feb. 20. Players must be 4 years old before May 1, 2006, to be eligible to participate. For more details go to [www.bayouthbaseball.com](http://www.bayouthbaseball.com).

BA Youth Baseball plays its games at the City's Indian Springs Sports Complex.